

BOOK REVIEW

Scientific and common names of insects and allied forms occurring in Australia. Compiled for the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Entomology Committee by P. B. Carne, L. D. Crawford, M. J. Fletcher, I. D. Galloway and E. Highley, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organization, Australia. 1980. Available from C.S.I.R.O. Editorial and Publications Service, 9 Queens's Rd, Melbourne. \$4.00 per copy, post paid.

This long awaited list is a most welcome addition to the bookshelf, replacing earlier editions published as *C.S.I.R.O. Bulletins* between 1955 and 1973. These earlier issues focussed on insects of economic importance, striking appearance or those that are very common. This edition gives greater representation to other groups, especially molluscs and spiders.

It consists of four parts, a comprehensive explanatory Introduction, and Index of Scientific Names, an Index of Common Names and a Systematic List. Previous editions had only two alphabetical lists; scientific names and common names. This handbook includes a third most important taxonomic list, placing groups in systematic sequence from phylum to order; families, genera and species are listed alphabetically within orders. The taxonomic list can be easily utilized because the order of each species is given in both scientific and common name lists.

Changes in scientific nomenclature are covered, prior names are entered in the scientific list and the user is referred to the species under its current name. Changed common names are similarly treated. Where no common name exists, descriptive phrases have been employed.

Standardizations have been applied to fusion, hyphenation and separation of words in common names; these changes being common sense and well overdue. For example, where common names consist of two parts, one indicating the family or group, the other a modifier they are separated (e.g. christmas beetle); where the common name does not have taxonomic indicators, they are fused (ladybird, greenfly). Generally, hyphens are eliminated. Exotic species introduced for biological control are marked in the Systematic List.

I can find no errors in the families with which I am familiar—some taxonomists may disagree with the arrangement of the Systematic List and one could quibble over many of the common names, but the new format seems eminently sensible.

In summary: an essential reference booklet.

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AN ACCUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGY

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